The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the legislative, executive and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1919, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918

Cowards die many times before their death.—Shakespeare.

WHOLE NO. 947. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 12.

SOUTHERN TEXTILE WORKERS PROVE "IT CAN BE DONE"

Sweeping victories of southern textile workers in Elizabethton and Greenville, S. C., is an answer to self-constituted seers of sorrow who have opinions to sell and who insist organized labor is on the wrong road.

The textile workers, by their solidarity and courage, broke the lines of opponents who would deny them a voice in working conditions.

The electric spark of manhood and womanhood has been touched and the gains will prove an inspiration to southern workers in every craft and calling.

The victories will also inspire workers in every other section of the country who contributed to this cause and who aided in routing employers who resent interference with their control of human beings.

Organized labor's claim has been upheld—the workers can win if they so elect.

The textile workers' advance is a shock to theorists and program worshippers who will not understand why trade unionists reject their advice.

These myth makers are without historical background or experience in human affairs. The aspirations and policies of trade unionists would be treated by them as a laboratory experiment.

They believe big words have a special value and they are confident that the world can be shaped by their recipe.

They can not understand that experience originates from practical life and not from thought.

Their blue print systems have proven ash can philosophy, though they appeal for the moment to the emotionalism of man.

Each system is finally discarded by its authors who prepare new forms, only to be followed by its predecessor. The endless chain continues in the hope that workers will accept the delusion that others can save them. Low-wage employers and seekers of place encourage this whirl-a-gig system that would divide the workers. The reason is apparent.

The trade union movement rejects paper-made plans. We know that life's forces are working constant changes and that these only can be met by organization, education and self-help.

Gains do not come automatically. Our life's struggles can not be assigned to others.

Trade unionism differs from all other social institutions and programs. This is why we are opposed by those who would have us accept their leadership.

Organized workers may well smile at every attempt to create a defeatist atmosphere within their ranks.

Our membership is increasing, higher standards of intelligence are being reached and an expanding knowledge of the philosophy and practices of trade unionism, based on the evolutionary theory of life, is noted on every hand.

We refuse to be satisfied. We are fired by a holy discontent that broadens our cultural aspirations and enlarges our need for material things.

Our trade union movement is going well, thank you!

HEROIC RAYON STRIKERS WIN; ROUT TROOPS-MACHINE GUNS

The Elizabethton strike was forced on workers to destroy the union, and this movement was aided by military and civil authorities. The workers return to the mills with their union intact and an agreement on the part of the company that no discrimination will be used against union workers. —Edward F. McGrady and Paul J. Aymon, A. F. of L. representatives.

Elizabethton, Tenn., June 1.—The rayon mills' strike has been adjusted, and the largest textile strike in the South has come to a satisfactory end.

Kidnapping, troops and machine guns failed to intimidate these 5,500 workers who have their first experience in the value of solidarity.

The principal clauses of the agreement between the workers and the two rayon corporations are:

"If an employe is not reinstated definite reasons shall be given such employe, and if the employe feels he is discriminated against he may refer his case to an impartial person for a hearing. The impartial person shall be E. T. Wilson, new personnel director.

"The management will not discriminate against any employe because of membership in an organization not because of legitimate and lawful activities of such organization as long as they are carried on outside of the plant."

Recognition of the union is not included, but this was not a cause for the strike. The workers insisted that victimization cease. They have confidence in the new personnel director, whose duty it will be to revive a shattered morale of the several thousand workers who refused to be intimidated by Governor Horton's soldiers.

The strike end will have a far-reaching effect throughout the entire South, and low-wage employers, who have the Bourbon outlook, have been defeated in their attempt to maintain low concepts that are rejected by every thinking citizen.

The strike was handled by the United Textile Workers, affiliated to the A. F. of L. and was supported by the entire union movement.

TEXTILE WORKERS WIN IN BIG BRANDON MILLS

Greenville, S. C., June 1.—Textile strikers at the big Brandon mills won a sweeping victory and workers throughout the entire Piedmont section are inspired.

The mills are organized 100 per cent under the United Textile Workers affiliated to the A. F. of L. Signed agreements are secured.

Public sentiment is so strongly in favor of the strikers that the Textile Manufacturers' Association has started an advertising campaign to stem the tide. They claim the speed-up system, hurry up, "Ford-out," is a forward step, but the workers' claim of long hours and greater production at lower wages remains unanswered.

WIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

Aberdeen, Wash., June 1.—Building trades unions in this area established the five-day week.

Senate Is Nation's Open Forum; Foes Hate Lawmakers' Publicity

Washington, June 1.—The Senate may be referred to as "radical" and "rebellious," but we should be thankful that the term "rubber stamp" can not be applied to that body, said Senator Walsh of Montana in a radio address on "The Senate and Its Critics."

Senator Walsh referred to the days when the Senate was known as "the millionaires' club" and the "American House of Lords." That Senate then was not "radical." The party whip was cracked and secret caucus decisions were declared the law of the land.

Since then, however, Senators are elected by popular vote, party lines have been weakened and Senators who refuse to vote en bloc are denounced.

"The Senate is the nation's open forum," declared the Montana lawmaker. "There is more political independence in the Senate than formerly. Fewer men are bound by party dictation.

"One of the reasons for the propaganda against the Senate, the real reason for the effort to spread the delusion that its personnel has deteriorated since Senators have been directly elected by the people, is the presence of that body today of a new, substantial, aggressive, independent and progressive type and spirit."

Senator Walsh said that much of the denunciation of the Senate comes from groups that would increase the power of the President at the expense of the Senate.

"Such action will bring the Senate down or up (depending upon one's viewpoint) to the level of the House and permit absolute executive and partisan control."

"It is a singular circumstance that, while the country seems to be decidedly opposed to centralization of power in Washington, there is a steady propaganda on foot to concentrate Federal authority and power in the hands of the Executive. If this is not a movement from representative democratic government toward bureaucracy, then I know not by what name to call it. The Senate is the last citadel of minority rights and the protector of weaker States.

"In an age when executive authority is expanding tremendously the Senate is the only safeguard the people have against usurpation and bureaucratic tyranny.

"Where is there, outside the Senate, a power in our Government that raises over the desk of every attempt to extend Executive authority the sign, 'Stop! Think! Beware! the Senate is still gagless!' "

Senator Walsh agreed that freedom of speech is not abused in the Senate, but if that body is to be "a last stronghold of free speech and an argument for its exercise, will surrender this right because it is at times flagrantly and disgracefully abused?"

CONSCRIPTION WILL BE URGED

The stage is being set in Congress for the passage of a conscription law that will empower the President to call the nation's youth to the colors.

An act of Congress is now necessary to conscript, but a pending bill will give that power to the President.

Secretary of War Good proposed a blunt conscription act, but this has been rejected by Senators because it makes no mention of wealth.

A bill favored by the American Legion covers this point. It empowers the President to conscript youth and to "regulate" the profits of business.

The bill is called "conscription of capital and labor," but this is misleading. It makes not attempt to conscript wealth. Profits are merely regulated.

Under this system a business man will be allowed to include depreciation, replacement of machinery, interest on investment and all other expenses. Then he will be permitted to charge a "fair profit." This will check war-time profiteers who destroy a nation's morale in war time.

The bill, however, will make no attempt to seize the means of production, but the youth of the land will be seized.

MUSCLE SHOALS BILL IS WRECKED BY COURT

Washington, June 1.—The Muscle Shoals bill, passed by the last Congress, and which empowers the government to operate the water power, has been wrecked by the United States Supreme Court.

"We will have to start all over again," said Senator Norris, veteran defender of control of Muscle Shoals.

The decision was on the interpretation of what constitutes an adjournment of Congress and was made in the case of several Indian tribes who secured passage of a bill that would permit them to present certain claims to the Federal Court of Claims.

The bill, together with the Muscle Shoals bill, was presented to President Coolidge at the closing days of Congress that did not adjourn sine die, but for several weeks. He took no action on either bill. This is called a "pocket veto."

The Constitution provides that if a bill is not returned by the President within 10 days after it is presented to him the same shall be a law in like manner as if he signed it "unless the Congress by their adjournment prevents its return, in which case it shall not be a law."

If the court held that an adjournment of Congress is not an adjournment unless sine die, as is the case every 10 days, the bills that the President held between adjournments of the regular session of the same Congress would be law.

Anti-Unionist Calls for Prayers to Check Organized Labor's March

Nashville, Tenn., June 1.—Dismayed by the failure of troops and injunctions to accomplish their purpose, John E. Edgerton, president of the Tennessee Manufacturers' Association, advised members to "continue their prayers for the enduring strength" of Southern textile employers who are resisting trade unionism.

Mr. Edgerton also is president of the national Manufacturers' Association. Following his appeal textile workers won their strikes at Greenville, S. C., and Elizabethton.

Prayers for "those brave spirits who are fighting our cause and defending at tremendous cost the sacred right of men and women to work" are badly needed, according to Mr. Edgerton.

"Let us also pray for our Governor and troops (at Elizabethton) who are defending the integrity of our Constitution which guarantees, in the face of the Communistic pressures upon them from within and without our borders, to surrender our State to the forces of anarchy.

"If our prayers are answered, and I fervently hope they will be, then we may be spared the embarrassment of a conference and other costs which attachment to principle exacts."

Injunctions, Idleness, Mooney Case Are Considered by A. F. L. Council

Washington, June 1.—The appointment of forward looking men to the position of Federal judges was urged by the A. F. of L. Executive Council when they called on President Hoover at their quarterly meeting in this city.

The Council also called the President's attention to the labor injunction declaration by the last National Democratic convention.

The Executive Council declared that the first step toward the solution of unemployment is the regularization of employment and the study of measures for regularization in industries in which seasonal employment works hardship.

President Green was instructed to draft a satisfactory injunction bill and he is instructed at this special session to get it on its way for favorable action by the next Congress.

The Council directed President Green to urge Governor Young of California to consider not only the official record of the Mooney trial, but to include all other evidence. Officers of the California State Federation of Labor will be advised of this action to the end that the declarations of the A. F. of L. may be carried out.

The council visited the West Point Military Academy on the invitation of the commandant. President Green explained the purposes of organized labor to the future generals of the army.

The council directed that resident officers give every possible aid to have the Federal Radio Commission reconsider its decision denying an exclusive wave length to WCFL broadcasting station, owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

President Green was instructed to study the proposed conscription bill for future report to the council. He was also directed to inform affiliates in regard to the dual movement sponsored in New York City by so-called "progressives."

Vice President Wharton reported that recent wage increases to the railroad shop crafts, since the New York Central award, total $63,000,000.

ABSENTEE LANDLORDS REFUSE COMPENSATION

Washington, June 1.—Santiago Iglesias, member of the Porto Rican Senate and secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, has been called by the labor movement to return to Porto Rico and attend a special legislative session that will consider relief for injured workers who have been denied compensation.

"Large corporations in the island refuse to contribute to the Porto Rican compensation fund and nearly $1,500,000 is due the dependents of 14,000 killed and injured workers," said Mr. Iglesias.

"The legislature appropriated money to pay these claims, but Governor Towner declined to approve the act. He said they should be paid out of taxes. Corporations are draining the island of its wealth and not only refuse to pay into the compensation fund, but repudiate tax obligations. Education, sanitation and public works are affected and destitution is general while disabled workers and their dependents can not receive their just dues.

"Governor Towner's plea that these awards be paid out of taxes is no remedy as the question is before United States courts and it will be years before a final decision is made.

"The legislature now proposes to pay the compensation awards on installments and it is hoped that this compromise can be agreed to. The situation is another illustration of appalling conditions in the island, where absentee landlordism and poverty go hand in hand."

DISCHARGED WORKERS IS NATIONAL PROBLEM

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 1.—"Displacement of workers who have reached the age of 40 and 45 illustrates one of the many short-sighted policies of employers," said P. T. Fagin, president District No. 5, United Mine Workers.

"Employers," said Mr. Fagin, "fail to realize how the discharge of these workers react on themselves. It weakens the morale of the victim's associates. Every employer knows, or should know, the result of a dispirited group of workers who fear they will be thrown on the street when the fateful 40 or 45 arrives."

The Mine Workers' official made this comment in referring to the case of James J. Rowan, who was victimized by the Pittsburgh coal trust and who later secured employment as a laborer in a Pittsburgh glass house, only to be discharged when he "passed the age limit."

There was no question of Rowan's ability to work, but the rigid rule was applied, regardless of conditions.

"Rowan's case is similar to thousands of other cases," declared President Fagin. "First, they are victimized for belonging to the union or they are displaced by automatic machinery. They are forced to accept any employment, invariably at a lower wage. Living standards are thus reduced. Then they are discharged because of an age limit when they have years of useful labor before them."

MILL WORKERS UNITE

La Grande, Ore., June 1.—Mill workers in this vicinity concluded to change the 10-hour system through organization. They are being aided by A. F. of L. Organizer Young. Painters and laundry workers are also discussing organization.

CITIZENSHIP DENIED PLEADER FOR PACIFISM

Washington, June 1.—United States Supreme Court, by a 6-to-3 vote, denied citizenship to Rosika Schwimmer, Hungarian pacifist, who declared she would not bear arms in defense of the United States. Mrs. Schwimmer came into prominence in connection with the World War Ford peace ship that was intended "to get the boys out of the trenches before Christmas."

The majority opinion held that under the Constitution it is the duty of citizens "by force of arms to defend our government against all enemies whenever necessary." The opinion declared that contrary views is a bad influence.

Justices Holmes, Brandeis and Sanford were the dissenters.

Justice Holmes held that the constitutional principle of free thought should be the governing factor in the case.

"If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other," he said, "it is the principle of free thought. Not free thought for those who agree with us, but freedom for the thought that we hate."

TELEGRAPHERS OPPOSE SEVEN-DAY WEEK

St. Louis, Mo., June 1.—The Order of Railway Telegraphers, whose headquarters is in this city, has launched a campaign against the seven-day week.

RICH GETTING RICHER; MERGERS INCREASING

Washington, June 1.—The number of millionaires in this country increased more than 400 per cent during 1922-1927, said Senator Walsh (Mass.) in discussing income tax returns on the floor of the Senate.

The increase in the number of individuals declaring net incomes in excess of $100,000 was 174 per cent; the increase in the zone between $50,000 and $100,000 was 97 per cent and in the zone between $10,000 and $50,000 66 per cent.

In the same period the net income of all individuals in the class reporting less than $10,000 actually decreased 10 per cent.

The net income of corporations with net incomes under $50,000 have but slightly increased while the net incomes of corporations in excess of $5,000,000 increased more than 100 per cent.

Senator Walsh said that these figures "confirm the opinion that the wealth of the country is being rapidly concentrated in the hands of a limited number of corporations and a limited number of individuals; that the very wealthy are increasing their wealth out of all proportion to other elements of our population and that the income of individuals with smaller incomes are steadily decreasing without any corresponding decrease in the cost of living; that the earnings of corporations are being steadily concentrated in a limited number of combines or mergers."

ELECTRICAL WORKERS GAIN

Portland, Ore., June 1.—Wage increase feature the new agreement between organized electrical workers and the Portland Electric Power Company.

FIREMEN ADVANCE

Boston, June 1.—Stationary Firemen's Union No. 3 signed a new agreement with the Boston Elevated Railway Company.

VARE FRAUD CHARGES COMPILED FOR SENATE

Washington, June 1.—Election frauds in the 1926 Pennsylvania senatorial campaign are included in a brief supporting the claim of William B. Wilson, first Secretary of Labor and former secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers.

Contesting the claim of William S. Vare, who was declared elected on the face of the returns, but who was not seated in the Senate because of the charges, the brief fills 79 pages of election frauds in various counties of that state.

The brief for Wilson charged that "political corruption so permeated" Philadelphia and Allegheny County (Pittsburgh) that the "actual difficulty encountered in the investigation of fraudulent voting and corrupt practices was not so much in the discovery of such conditions as in the ascertainment of the isolated instances where they did not prevail."

In Pittsburgh, it is stated, the record shows a padding of the assessors' list by 50,000 names.

"Without dealing with the important but relatively side issues in the counties of Delaware, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Schuylkill, the twin centers of political debauchery, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, recorded their unscrupulous hatred for William B. Wilson. Carrying 55 of the 67 counties of the State, he came to Pittsburgh with a popular majority of 97,255 votes and triumphing over the corruption he met there, he swept on to Philadelphia with a popular majority of 59,422."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Denver, June 1.—Newspaper printers won a three-year contract and a wage increase of 7½ cents a week until next September, when it will be increased to $1 a week.

RADIO TRUST CAN BE BLOCKED BY GOVERNMENT-OWNED PATENT

Washington, June 1.—The government could break the radio monopoly if it used patents that it controls, Colonel J. I. McMullen, in charge of patent work in the office of the Judge Advocate General of the Army, told the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce.

"If anybody has the means of a communication monopoly it is the government, if it would assert its rights," said the witness.

Colonel McMullen explained the status of the Schloemilch-von Bronck patents that were seized by the United States from Germans during the World War. Patents along the same line, known as the Alexanderson patents, are owned by the General Electric Company and handled by the Radio Corporation of America. Both patents deal with tuned frequency amplification and, with the Lowell and Dunmore socket-power unit, "the heart of the radio patent situation today."

Colonel McMullen said the government's patent anticipated the General Electric patent. The highest court in Canada has ruled in favor of the von Bronck patent, but the General Electric won, "in a sort of a left-handed way," in two New York district courts.

The witness said these cases were rather a put up job by General Electric," and that they were decided without the government being represented.

"The danger of a radio patent monopoly in broadcasting is apple sauce,' said Colonel McMullen. "The real danger," he asserted, "is in a large corporation creating such a patent situation that no small man can fight it. When the radio patent situation is analyzed there is not so much to it; the real question is that of capital behind the corporation.

"Radio tube patents are outrageous, though the patent has run out. The monopoly continues by pure intimidation."

Senator Dill inquired whether the monopoly attitude of Radio Corporation of America could be prevented by the government if it went to the courts in behalf of its patent.

"The government undoubtedly could, if it wanted to," replied the witness.

NEW IRON PROCESS DISPLACES LABOR

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 1.—What will become of the skilled iron puddler, who is being displaced by new processes?

The A. M. Byers Company produces 4,500 tons of wrought iron in a month by its recently perfected Ashton process at Warren, Ohio. About 150 men are employed.

At the company's Girard (Ohio) plant, that operates under the old system, 400 men produce 4,000 tons a month.

These figures show that at the Warren plant one man produces 30 tons of iron a month, with 250 less men than the Girard plant, which produces 10 tons per man.

RAILROADS PLAN HIGHER RATES WHEN PUBLIC FORGET DECISION

New York, June 1.—The railroads will raise rates when the public forget the United States Supreme Court's decision in the St. Louis and O'Fallon railroad case, declared Maurice Hotchner, general counsel of several citizens' organizations in Long Island cities.

The court, in this case, reversed the Interstate Commerce Commission's valuations for railroads for rate-making purposes. The carriers of the country supported this decision. railroad officials said that valuations should be based on present-day reproduction costs. The court partly upheld the railroads, and it is thought this precedent will be enlarged.

"I warn the public against swallowing the plausible statements railroad offices that there will be no increase of rates as a result of the O'Fallon decision," said Mr. Hotchner. "These statements are merely sugarcoated alleviatives to lull the public into a false sense of security, and I look for a marshaling of forces by the railroads and a laying of far-reaching plans for campaigns to increase the rates. The burden on the public will be heavy.

"How could it be otherwise? Certainly the railroads have no altruistic or academic thought in mind when they organized behind the little St. Louis and O'Fallon Railroad Company and helped prepare and fight its case all the way up to the United States Supreme Court. They won't deny themselves the fruits of victory.

"When public fears have been slumbered and the railroads think the time is propitious I believe applications for increases of rates will be general throughout the land.

"And this movement is not limited to railroads. The public utility companies have already embarked on such a general program notwithstanding the conviction of economists that the rates for public utility commodities should be reduced instead of increased. The public should be warned to carefully watch this situation."

JOSEPH N. WEBER ON A. F. L. BOARD

Washington, June 1.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council, at its quarterly meeting in this city, chose Joseph N. Weber, president American Federation of Musicians, to succeed Vice President Jacob Fischer, who resigned, following his recent resignation as secretary of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union.

The new A. F. of L. vice president for years has served as executive of the musicians. He has represented his organization for nearly a quarter of a century in A. F. of L. conventions.

INSURANCE TRUST BILL VETOED BY GOVERNOR

Sacramento, Cal., June 1.—Governor Young vetoed a legislative act designed to wreck the State Compensation Fund. The bill was backed by private insurance companies who waged a sensational fight for the measure. Trade unionists led the opposition.

The measure would allow private companies to compete with the State Fund for compensation and liability insurance business of cities, counties and other political subdivisions, now handled exclusively by the State.

WAR GAS IMMUNITY HELD IMPOSSIBLE

New York, June 1.—The horrors of war gas may prove an effective check on war, according to Associated Press cables.

The dispatch states that Dr. Gertrude Woker of Berlin described how the International Committee of Red Cross Experts, at their recent meeting in Brussels, proved that no protection exists for the civilian population in a war of the future.

Brisanz shells with time fuses are being made which, when dropped from airplanes, bury themselves in the earth, but do not explode until either 4, 6, 8 or even 36 hours later. Against such deadly missils even the best organized rescue squads would prove unavailing. Masks are no protection.

Every military attack of the future, the Red Cross experts believe, will comprise three different kinds of arms, each of which renders the protective measure for one incompatible for the other.

The committee agreed "that none of the recommended measures for safeguarding humanity offers an adequate protection for the civilian population against poison gas attacks and that a future chemical warfare is likely to produce the most frightful catastrophe among a nation's noncombatants."

POPULATION LAGS; FARM OUTPUT GROWS

Washington, June 1.—Farm production in this country has increased more rapidly than population since the World War, according to Dr. O. E. Baker, economist Department of Agriculture.

This increase has been accomplished despite a reduction in the number of farms, of the rural population, of the number of farm animals and a slight decrease in farm acreage.

Machinery is the principal factor in this change, said Dr. Baker, who suggests that production be controlled.

"It is plain to see," he said, "that new forces are abroad in the world and the application of science and invention to agriculture is advancing at an accelerating rate. Unless agriculture is prudently guided there is grave danger that periods of agriculture depression will recur."

BUILDING LOCKOUT AVERTED IN NEW YORK

New York, June 1.—The threatened lockout of 75,000 building craftsmen has been referred to a board of arbitration headed by Supreme Court Justice Thomas C. T. Crain.

The Building Trades Employers' Association agreed to reinstate its promise to establish the five-day week without loss of wages that was granted May 4 and canceled by the board of governors of the association on May 13 when they ordered the lockout.

FEDERAL LABOR UNION KEY TO ORGANIZATION

Washington, June 1.—"The Federal Labor Union is a recruiting station for trade unions," said Wm. Green, president A. F. of L. in an appeal to all volunteer organizers to unite these workers.

Federal unions include those workers where there are not a sufficient number in their respective crafts or callings to form a trade union.

After the Federal Labor Union is organized and a sufficient number of any particular craft or calling become members of the Federal Labor Union the Federal Trade Union must form a local trade union and affiliate with the A. F. of L. or with the national or international union which has jurisdiction.

No worker who is a member of a union at the present time can become a member of a Federal Labor Union, while he is employed at work that is under the jurisdiction of the union of which he is a member.